

USSN 10/540,268
Mitsuo USAMI
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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated October 16, 2009. By the present amendment, the independent claims 7 and 14 have been amended to clarify the invention, as will be discussed below. In addition, dependent claims 12 and 19-21 have been amended inasmuch as the features of these claims have been incorporated into the parent independent claims, together with additional features.

Reconsideration and removal of the 35 USC § 103 rejection of the independent claims 7 and 14 and their respective dependent claims over the primary reference to Bandy (USP 6,002,344) in view of the secondary references to Heng, Augenblick, Barret, Jr, and Raimbault is respectfully requested. As will be discussed below, by the present amendment, the independent claims 7 and 14 have each been amended to clarify the distinctions over the cited references.

In particular, each of the independent claims 7 and 14 has been amended to define the feature from the dependent claims 12 and 19-21 that:

“wherein said memory address counter and the second information have the same bit number.”

In addition, each of these independent claims has been amended to define that this feature, together with the further features regarding the second information (e.g., which can be a random number, as defined in various dependent claims) serving as an initial value from which a count-up toward zero controls the transmission of the first information:

“to thereby avoid collision with the transmitted information from said other IC tags.”

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With regard to this, it is noted that support for the above-noted changes to the independent claims 7 and 14 can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0034] and [0041] of the published application US 2006/0114103. As noted in paragraph [0007], an object of the present invention is to provide an anti-collision control function, to avoid collision of the transmitted first information with transmitted information from other IC tags transmitting to the same reception unit without the complexities of previous anti-collision circuits. An essential element of this, as now clearly defined in each of the independent claims 7 and 14, is that the bit number of the memory address counter and of the second information is the same bit number. By virtue of this, and the use of the second information (having the same bit number as the memory address counter) to start a count-up toward zero to control the transmission of the first information, "it can control anti-collision with such a simple circuit configuration". (Paragraph [0041] of the published application.)

It is respectfully submitted that neither Bandy nor any of the other cited secondary references teach or suggest this claimed interrelationship between setting the memory address counter and the second information to have the same bit number to avoid collision with a simplified circuit structure. As noted in the Remarks of the previous Amendment filed on June 18, 2009, the circuitry of Bandy is structured differently from that of the present claimed invention, and operates in a different manner, resulting in a more complicated arrangement than the present claimed invention. As such, because of the structural and operational differences of Bandy from the present claimed invention, Bandy is not able to achieve the simple anti-collision solution which is achieved by the present claimed invention. Further, none of the cited secondary references teach or suggest anything which would

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overcome these fundamental differences, and disadvantages, of Bandy relative to the claimed invention. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the amended independent claims 7 and 14, and their respective dependent claims, is earnestly solicited.


If the Examiner believes there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 843.45150X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By



Gregory E. Montone
Registration No. 28,141

GEM/mlh
1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Telephone: (703) 312-6600
Facsimile: (703) 312-6666